AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 19 starting with "By way of example" with the following amended paragraph:

By way of example, a data communication model has been developed [[to]] in which a process operating in user mode is operable to employ a data transport service in which communication between associated hardware components is facilitated through communication contexts. The process first creates a queue pair and sets it to the appropriate type of service. The process obtains an endpoint communication context through a privileged operation, which can communicate with a given remote node address.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1 starting with "By way of further" with the following amended paragraph:

By way of further illustration, in order for a local process to communicate a message to a remote process, the local process provides the message to a local queue component associated with the local process. The message includes information identifying a local endpoint communication context through which the message is desired to be sent. In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, each of the local queue component and the local endpoint communication context belongs to a predetermined [[a]] domain. If the local queue component and the local endpoint communication context identified in the message are not part of the same domain, the message is not processed and an error message may be generated. If the local queue component and the local endpoint communication context are part of the same domain, the message is communicated between the local queue component and communication context, which may then be communicated between the local and remote endpoint communication contexts.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 22 starting with "Fig 2. illustrates" with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 2 illustrates another example of a system 50, which is programmed and/or configured to facilitate substantially secure communication in accordance with an aspect of the present invention. The system 50 includes a user-level process (PROCESS A) 52, such as an application or program module, running on a computer 54 at a node (NODE 1) 56 of the system 50 [[10]]. The process 52 is operative to directly communicate a message, such as an IO request or other type of communication service, with a queue pair 60 located within a hardware device, such as a channel adapter 62.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 20 starting with "In order to facilitate" with the following amended paragraph:

In order to facilitate substantially secure, reliable communication in the system 50, messages can be communicated between queue pairs and communication contexts provided that they are part of a common domain. For example, domain characteristics are associated with each queue pair and each communication context in a privileged operation, which characteristics are not accessible by user-level processes. As a result, a communication context may be isolated from a queue pair if their respective domain characteristics do not match (*e.g.*, they are not members of a common domain).

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        Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 6 starting with "At step 310"
with the following amended paragraph:

        At step 310, the communication context is associated with the queue pair. The
association, which may be referred to as a domain, enables the queue pair to utilize the
communication context for communication of messages to and from a desired destination node.
One or more applications at a node may share a communication context for communicating
messages relative to a common destination node. The act of association may include modifying
attributes of the queue pair to specify a domain that matches that of the communication context.
The domain attributes may be stored as a domain object in hardware (e.g., a channel adapter) in
which the communication context and queue pair are associated.

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